



Legislative Bulletin.....July 8, 2003

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**H.R. 1761—Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building Designation Act
(Tiahrt)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 1761 would designate the postal facility located at 9350 East Corporate Hill Drive in Wichita, Kansas, as the “Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Garner E. Shriver was a Republican congressman from Kansas from 1961-1977. Rep. Shriver also served in the Kansas House in the 1940s and the Kansas Senate in the 1950s. He died in 1998.

Committee Action: On June 19, 2003, the Government Reform Committee marked up and favorably reported the bill to the full House by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Though no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.R. 2396—Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office Designation Act (*Solis*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2396 would designate the postal facility located at 1210 Highland Avenue in Duarte, California, as the “Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office.”

Additional Background: Francisco A. Martinez Flores was a U.S. Marine from Los Angeles who died on March 25, 2003, in Iraq when his tank went over a collapsing bridge and tumbled into the Euphrates River. He was 21 years old and was granted posthumous U.S. citizenship.

Committee Action: On June 19, 2003, the Government Reform Committee marked up and favorably reported the bill to the full House by voice vote.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Though no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to “establish Post Offices and post Roads.”

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H.R. 2631—To provide that the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered to Medicare eligible enrollees by a plan under the Federal employees health benefits program shall be at least equal to the actuarial value of the prescription drug benefits offered by such plan to its enrollees generally (Tom Davis)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 8th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 2631 would prohibit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) from approving a plan for inclusion in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) unless it offers Medicare-eligible enrollees the actuarial equivalent of prescription drug benefits provided to non-Medicare enrollees in the plan. In other words, while a plan would not have to provide exactly the same prescription drug benefits, the value of the benefits must be equivalent.

The Director of OPM would be required to establish a process for determining the actuarial value of prescription drug benefits.

Additional Background: Federal employees over the age of 65 are eligible for both Medicare and FEHBP. H.R. 2631 intends to address concerns that with the possible addition of a new prescription drug benefit under Medicare, the FEHBP will reduce drug coverage for Medicare-eligible enrollees.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on June 26, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Government Reform. The Committee did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: A cost estimate is unavailable.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: Yes, the bill creates a new criterion for health plans wishing to be a part of the FEHBP.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630